

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-16 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-15 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

35 USC '112, 1ST PARAGRAPH REJECTION - OBSOLETE VIA AMENDMENT

Claim 10 has been rejected, under 35 USC '112, first paragraph, for the concerns listed within the "112" section on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Traversal is appropriate, but such rejection has been rendered obsolete by the present clarifying amendments to Applicant's specification/claims. Based upon the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above-referenced rejection are respectfully requested.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIM(S)

Claim 16 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the "Allowable Subject Matter" section on page 17 of the Office Action. Features/limitations of allowable dependent claim 16 have been incorporated into each of the independent claim(s), thereby rendering the rewritten independent claim(s) and any claims dependent therefrom allowable, i.e., all of presently-pending claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-15 should be allowable as presently rewritten. Further, ones of such claims have been minorly amended (e.g., to improve clarity, correct antecedents, remove extraneous portions) within this paper in a manner believed not to affect an allowability thereof. Reconsideration and renewal of the allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to make an independent assessment as to whether accurate and sufficient allowable features/limitations have been incorporated into the above-mentioned claims. Finally, in view of the incorporation of the features/limitations of claim 16 into the independent claims, such allowable dependent claim has been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer) to avoid redundant claims. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

'103 REJECTIONS - OBSOLETE VIA CLAIM AMENDMENT

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed, but the present amendment of such rejected claim(s) (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) based on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible, has rendered such rejection(s) obsolete. Gratuitous traversal arguments concerning the rejection(s) are thus omitted for brevity. Further

discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s) are left for the future at a time when/if any disputed canceled claim(s) is reintroduced for consideration. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

The above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of any claim(s) (without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the objection or rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) based on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that amendments or cancellations have been made to address/obviate all non-art objections/rejections, and in view of the fact that base ones of the remaining claims have been rewritten to include the features/limitations indicated as being allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims (i.e., claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-15) are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is greatly thanked in advance by Applicant and the Undersigned, for any such issued Notice of Allowance.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any

Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-

2135 (Case No. 566.45431X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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